

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A switch is coupled between a plurality of host units and a device, for communicating therebetween. A first serial advanced technology attachment (SATA) port includes a first host task file, and is coupled to a first host unit. A second SATA port includes a second host task file, and is coupled to a second host unit. The task files are responsive to commands sent by the respective host units, and cause access to the device by the host respective host units. A third parallel ATA port includes a device task file, and is coupled to a device, for access to the device by the first or second host units. An arbitration and control circuit is coupled to the task files, for selecting one of the first or second host units to concurrently access the device through the switch at any given time, including when the device is not idle.